

captured, when convinced that their line was broken, said in despair; "All is lost! There is nothing between you and the Rhine!" The piles of empty shells at each machine gun emplacement and the heavy casualty list testified to the bitterness of the fighting. The regiment had proved its fighting worth and earned the confidence of its allied comrades, British and Australians. The spoils captured were enormous.

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### **THE 120TH INFANTRY THIRD INSTALLMENT OF HISTORY OF FAMOUS ORGANIZATION**

By Fred A. Olds

The following is the third installment of the admirably told story of the services of the 120th regiment of infantry U. S. A., the old Third North Carolina Regiment of the National Guard, a part of the 60th Brigade, 30th Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, Col. Sidney W. Minor commanding. After the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, which was accomplished completely Sept. 29, 1918, the Division was withdrawn from the front October 1st. and marched to a point near Peronne, making camp in an area which had been fought over for four years, changing hands time and time again and which was a perfect example of complete destruction, since of many towns nothing remained and the only signs of their existence were signboards marking the sites. Yet this was the Somme country, which had been the most productive part of France. The regiment and division relieved the Second Australian Division and at 2 a. m. on the night of Oct. 8th orders came for an attack which was to be launched in three and a half hours, that is at 5:30 in the morning, yet in this brief time the orders were prepared and distributed. The 118th Infantry was to lead in this attack and the 120th was to pass through it when the 118th had reached its objective, but the 118th was held up by terrible machine gun fire and not until 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon did the 120th pass through. Then three towns were taken and a battalion aided in capturing another.

On the 10th the advance continued and after severe fighting the town Vaux Andigny was captured and the regiment got in touch with the Sixth British Division. Major Boddie was wounded. The country was hilly, with woods and hedges, the Germans had no end of machine guns and gave up no ground without a hard fight.

On the 16th of October the regiment moved near Becquigny and that night was shelled with some casualties. An attack was made on the Germans behind a creeping barrage and the regiment took the town of Mazingheim and the heights overlooking the Sambre Canal, the Germans making such a desperate resistance that no prisoners were taken, practically all of them having to be killed.

The Division had lost so many men by death and wounds that it was withdrawn on the night of October 29, to be refilled and refitted, the 120th going to St. Souplet, thence to Busigny, to Nauroy and Pencourt, thence to a camp near Amiens. At the latter place the regiment got 300 replacement men, the first it had received, and a good many of its men who had been wounded at Ypres returned to it. Here the regiment gave the only "regimental party" it ever had and it was a very jolly social affair. It was given to the officers of the regiment by those of its officers that had been promoted in France, Col. Metts of the 119th being one of the three outside officers present. Training at this camp began after a very brief rest. While every man felt that the end of the war was not far off, the regiment fully expected to "jump off", that is attack, at least once more before the collapse came, and so on the 11th of November was hard at work preparing for an attack to be made a few days later, when suddenly a message came announcing the signing of the armistice. A holiday was declared.

After the armistice and until the regiment embarked for home work was being carried on and the division was transferred from the British Army to the American Army at Le Mons (sic). The regiment entrained at Corbie, detrained at Beaumont and its quarters were in the villages of St. Christopher, St. Sabine and Lille, this area being the most unsatisfactory in which the regiment was ever billeted. On January 21st, 1919, General Pershing inspected the division and reviewed it and three days later it marched to Montigny. Captains Leonard and Jenkins were promoted majors. Many other changes were made and a large number of officers went to